
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 49

COMMISSION ON MILITARY BASES

Importance of the Commonwealth to Our Nation's Military

For well over a century the Commonwealth of Virginia has served this great nation by providing an unparalleled array of military installations and commands, including the Pentagon in Arlington and the world's largest naval base in Norfolk. The military has become an integral part of our Commonwealth, to include our security, our economy, and our civic life. Accordingly, it is with the utmost seriousness that Virginians will participate in and work with the upcoming round of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

The federal government, charged with a statutory mandate to optimize efficiency throughout our National Security establishment, will review the current and future efficacy of military installations throughout the country for potential closure or realignment. Given the critical mission of Virginia's military installations, and their proximity to the Nation's Capital at this unique juncture in history, and our homeland security imperative, the importance of Virginia to the nation's national security has never been greater. It is therefore incumbent upon the Commonwealth to ensure that the BRAC Commission fully understands why under applicable BRAC statutory standards, the nation continues to be served by Virginia's current military installations, and why this state, along with the military missions currently based here, are strategically ideal for the hosting and performance of additional military missions and commands.

To accomplish this, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Article V of the *Constitution of Virginia* and by Section 2.2-134 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby create Virginia's Commission on Military Bases.

The Commission

The Commission will be chaired by the Honorable Owen Pickett and the Honorable Joe Reeder. The Commission will consist of members appointed by the Governor and serving at his pleasure. Initial appointments to the Commission will include 25 members. The Governor may appoint additional persons to the Commission at his discretion.

The Commission's responsibilities shall include the following responsibilities.

1. Coordinate and facilitate statewide, strategic activities to support Virginia-based military installations throughout the BRAC 2005 process.
2. Identify appropriate opportunities for relocating additional military commands and missions in the Commonwealth.
3. Recommend, as appropriate, additional reasons why, under applicable law, the Commonwealth should retain its existing military installations and commands.
4. Support and foster collaboration among local and regional entities working in response to the base closure process.
5. Provide quality technical assistance regarding the base closure and realignment process timetables, processes, and requirements.
6. Assist Virginia's congressional delegation in developing and presenting statutorily relevant facts that underscore the strategic, homeland security, and economic importance of Virginia's military installations to the nation.
7. Inform BRAC 2005 members, and other key federal officials as to state and local facilities and activities that enhance quality-of-life for the military community of Virginia and the entire National Capital Region.
8. Fully inform the Governor in a timely manner on all pertinent findings and recommendations.

Commission Staffing and Funding

Necessary staff support for the Commission's work during its existence shall be furnished by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and such other agencies

and offices as designated by the Governor. An estimated 3,000 hours of staff time will be required to support the Commission's work.

Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from federal funds, private contributions, and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-135 of the Code of Virginia, as well as the Economic Contingency Fund. Estimated direct costs for this Commission are \$100,000.

Commission members shall serve without compensation and shall receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

The Commission shall meet at least quarterly upon the call of the Co-Chairs. The Commission shall report annually to the Governor and shall issue such other reports and recommendations as necessary or as requested by the Governor.

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect until June 5, 2004, unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 6th day of June 2003.

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Commonwealth